

FOURNIER CREEK FIRE SALVAGE TIMBER SALE

November 19, 2007 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Missoula Unit (SWLO) – Approximately 1 Mile East of Frenchtown, MT
- Missoula County – Section 36, T15N, R21W
- 100% Common School Trust.
- This sale is within the Black Cat Fire perimeter and the wildland urban interface.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 9,311 tons (1,441 MBF) with an estimated minimum value of \$176,909.00 or \$19.00/TON.
- In addition to the estimated stumpage value, a fee of \$3.52/ton for Forest Improvement would be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 6.46 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- This sale includes 2 harvest units totaling 116 acres.
- Harvest prescriptions would salvage fire killed and fire stressed trees burned as a result of the Black Cat Fire. The entire sale area, except for two acres, burned with a high intensity, stand-replacement fire. Within the two harvest units, all merchantable trees would be harvested except those required for snag retention and recruitment. The two acres of unburned trees within the sale area would not be harvested. Western larch and ponderosa pine seedlings would be planted within 1-3 years after salvage operations are completed.
- This sale contains no old growth.

Harvest System:

- 51% tractor
- 49% cable

Road Construction:

- One mile of new road would be constructed and approximately 2 miles of existing road would be maintained. Existing roads that provide access across adjacent ownerships meet BMP's. The new road is behind a locked gate and would be closed to motorized public use.

Public Involvement & Issues:

- DNRC mailed scoping letters on September 10, 2007 to the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and known interested parties. Public involvement was also solicited through notices published in the *Missoulian*, and through personal communication with adjacent landowners in the project area and DNRC resource specialists. Issues identified through the scoping process were soil and water quality, black-backed woodpecker, aesthetics, safety and cultural/historical sites.

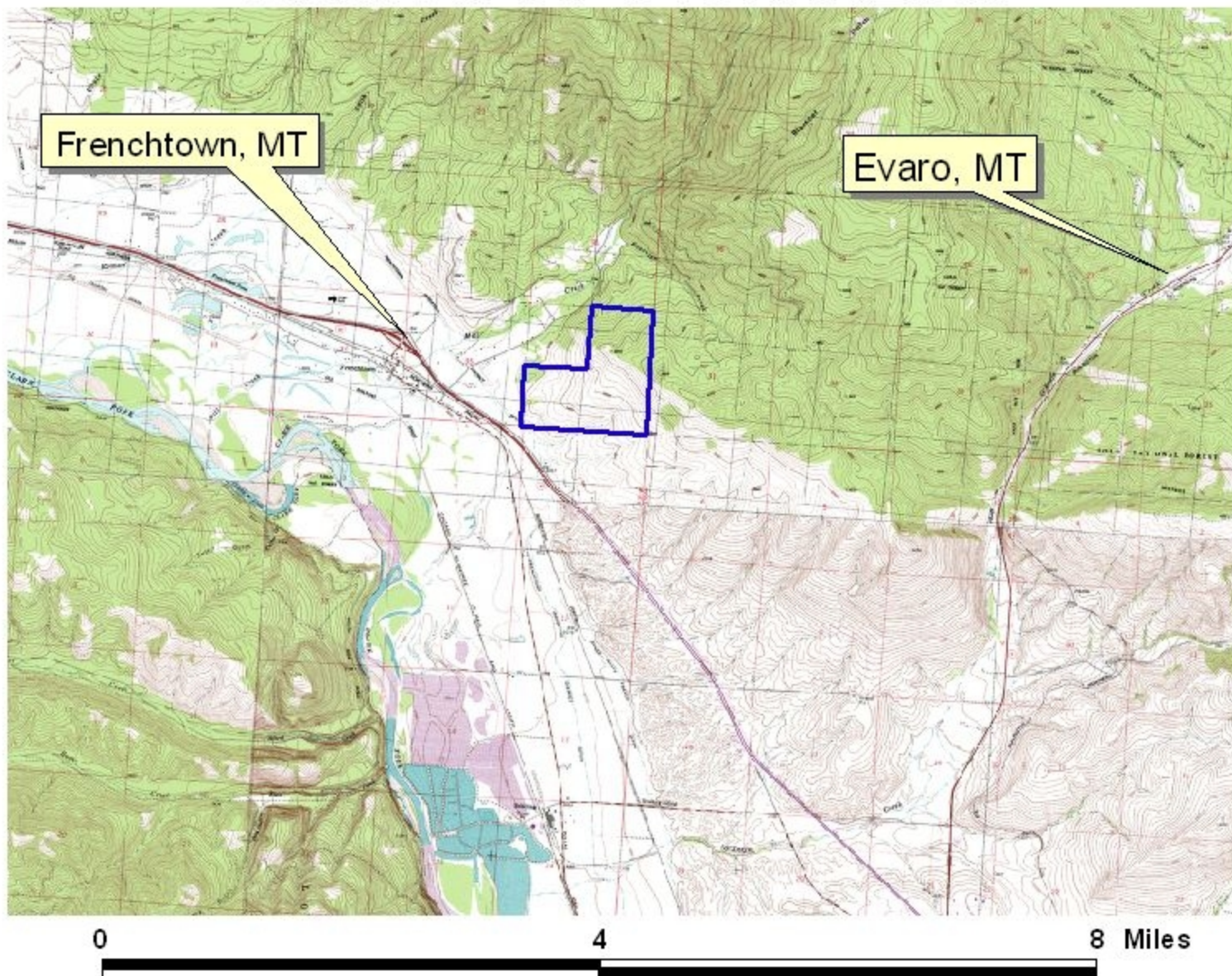
Issues and Mitigations:

- **Soil and Water Quality** – The proposed project is designed to limit impacts to soils and water quality. Appropriate equipment operation limitations, winter logging requirements, appropriate road location and design, and BMP implementation, grass seeding, weed control and slash retention on harvested ground would be required.
- **Black-backed Woodpecker** – The project is designed to limit impacts to wildlife. Mitigations include deferred harvest of approximately 58 acres of black backed woodpecker habitat within the analysis area.
- **Aesthetics and Safety** – Close proximity to residential areas near Frenchtown presents the potential for increased noise and traffic hazards due to log hauling associated with the project. Adjacent residents who could potentially be most affected have expressed support for the project, and many are currently logging their own property. Restrictions on compression brake use, log truck speed limits, and the posting of traffic warning signs would mitigate any potential impacts.
- **Historical and Cultural Sites** – Analysis by the DNRC archeologist revealed no historical or cultural sites within the project area.

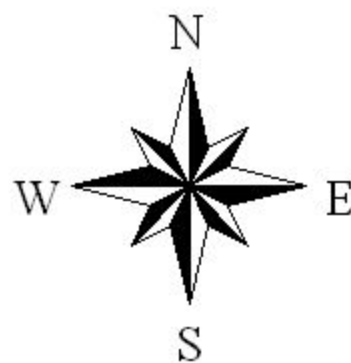
The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Fournier Creek Fire Salvage Timber Sale.

Fournier Creek Salvage Vicinity

Section 36 T15N R21W



 Fournier Creek Project Area



Fournier Creek Salvage Timber Sale

Section 36 T15N R21W

